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## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Kirk Beck, Sally Cernie, Kathye Crumley, Paul Van Doren, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Shirley Hanagan, Nancy Hart, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Taffi Romero, Melvin Ryman, Erin Snyder and John E. Williams

**Members Excused:** Nancy Sturmer

**Members Unexcused:** Albert Figueroa, Lorraine Hernandez-Saint and Michael Pierpoint

**Guests:** Paul Chavez, Catherine Duran, Brenda Flowers, Norm Gritton, Andy Melendrez and Pat Ryman

**Staff:** Eva Yakutis, Housing & Neighborhoods Manager; Brenda Flowers, Mayor’s Office

**1. Call to Order/Introductions –**

Chairperson Romero called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes for October 1, 2007 –**

Guest Paul Chavez asked whether the anticipated appearance by the D.A.’s Office at the Casa Blanca Community Action Group to discuss the Eastside gang injunction was mentioned at last month’s RNP meeting as there was no mention of it in the minutes. No board responded that that notification was made at the last meeting. Motion made to approve the minutes as presented. (Khalsa/Snyder/carried)

**3. Visiting Councilmember’s –**

- a. Ward 6 Councilmember Nancy Hart – The Galleria at Tyler is poised to open new restaurants and stores for Christmas. They have improved parking as well. Support Riverside by shopping Riverside and by supporting your neighborhood. All neighborhoods need to be strong to make the City the best it can be. There is a great deal of new infrastructure in Ward 6 such as storm drains and sidewalks. December 6, 2007, is the Grand Opening of Cypress Springs affordable apartments, which include units for people that are visually impaired and feature blindness support services. Taffi Romero asked about the second story added to the community center at Bryant Park. Councilwoman Hart reported on the improvements to the fitness center there. A library is coming to the corner of Challen Ave and Cypress Ave.
- b. Ward 2 Councilmember Andy Melendrez – The University Neighborhood Association Agenda this month includes a CalTrans update, Goodwin’s Market on Big Springs, Metrolink Station Highgrove and traffic issues, gateway project (housing project); Sycamore Canyon Community Action Group’s agenda this month includes getting organized for Christmas Party; Howard Street Neighborhood Association this month has been dealing with street racing issues with the police and residents, addition of a stop sign, concern about foot traffic at a particular house; Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association is still engaging with BRE in discussing new transit-oriented housing by the Metrolink station. There is an influx of homeless at the park. Concerns about traffic on Victoria and kids crossing after school. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Historic Neighborhood Association is focusing on the neighborhood crime issues in working with police. There has been a real decrease in crime in the neighborhood. Dwight Street Neighborhood Association is

organizing their Christmas Party. Staff is working with them to build their capacity to be self-reliant as a neighborhood association. There is a new Cridge Street neighborhood group as well as an individual on Comer and Fourth organizing a group. She is currently enrolled in the City's Neighborhoods Leadership Academy. Somerset Historic Neighborhood Association is working on traffic issues and historic preservation issues to keep their historic district strong relative to design standards. The Councilmember and staff are working with Eastside groups to bring them to the Eastside Neighborhood Forum each month to give updates at the forum. The neighborhood reports will be an agenda item each month.

Two incidents: A shooting at a restaurant took place on the Eastside. The councilmember meets with restaurants monthly, but this restaurant hadn't been participating. Youth Opportunity Center is now open. Las Fuentes senior housing is now open as well. Want to start a neighborhood association at the apartment complex and at the J.E. Wall complex.

**4. Leadership Riverside Emergency Preparation Training –**

No one appeared to give the presentation.

**5. Concerns from Visiting Neighbors –**

Paul Chavez reported on the D.A.'s visit to the Casa Blanca Community Action Group regarding the gang injunction as well as information that the Mayor's Night Out may be at Villegas on November 14. It was clarified that the CDBG Public Participation meeting is taking place on November 14, 2007, at Villegas Park.

**6. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –**

"Thank You" letters to those people that ran and encouraging them to try again. They should attend the meetings anyway. Aurora needs letter. Dan Gressmann had to resign from the board; Wil Lopez will be contacted to see if he is interested. We need to contact school boards. Jeff Kraus informed the group that September minutes showed he wasn't here but he was here. Kirk Beck re: Alvord Unified School – he will check to get someone here. Mention of CDBG meetings and the homeless program. John E. Williams interested in emergency shelters, etc. Susie Doss to report on CERT in that context.

**7. Goal Setting –**

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness was discussed as a goal for the year. Staff was asked to see if a presentation could be given next month.

Marketing: Taffi would like to have an events calendar each month (dry erase) and a marketing component so people on the board are attending meetings. Erin suggested getting RNP member to attend meetings in their area so that they know about RNP meetings as a venue each month. Requested updated list of neighborhood association meetings and that the letter be sent. Christina Duran: Suggested mediation training for RNP members to help deal with difficult neighbors, perhaps through a local Non-Profit. The upcoming Long Beach Conference will have a mediation workshop.

**8. Subcommittee Reports –**

- a. Neighborhood Matching Grant Committee: Susie, Kathye, Taffi - no report
- b. Bylaws: Erin, Christina, Gurumantra, John E. Williams – no report
- c. Neighborhood Conference: Sally, Kirk, Paul Van Doren, Nancy Sturmer, Nancy Hart – no report
- d. Neighborhood Awards: Jeff Kraus, Melvin Ryman, Lorraine Saint – no report
- e. Marketing Committee: Cindy Jensen, Shirley Hanagan, Albert Figueroa, Erin Snyder – no report

**9. Future Agenda Items –**

- Southern California Association of Governments will be on the December agenda to provide an update to the Transportation Plan (12 minutes). Public Utilities staff may also be here to give update as to rate increase.
- Suggestion from Christina Duran that Western Riverside Council of Governments Youth Environmental Conference information be provided to the RNP.
- January – Emergency Preparedness. Ask Anthony Coletta to give a presentation in January.

#### **10. Other Items/Public Comment –**

- Susie Doss went to the CERT training this past weekend. Fire has put 200 residents through the training and has a goal of 1000 residents. Tony Coletta is interested in coming and speaking to the group about CERT. Susie suggests RNP participate in CERT rather than other emergency preparedness training. Eva to mail the schedule re: CERT to members.
- Jeff Kraus reported on the event that took place in the University Neighborhood funded by a Neighborhood Matching Grant given last month. The Mayor reported on Jim Diers' book 'Neighbor Power' which is worth RNP looking at. Also, the idea of Neighborhood Service Centers is a great idea.
- Norm Gritton lives in Magnolia Center in a new historic district (Palm Heights) which had its first meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas party with Santa Claus will be held this December on Sunnyside Drive. As a member of DANA, he reported that DANA was seeking a project and took on the Fairmount Park Rose Garden as a project and is holding a fundraiser "Adopt a Rose" for \$10 per rose. Tickets can be purchased from Norm or Eva. There will be a barbecue celebrating the rose garden and all those that contributed in the spring.
- Shirley Hanagan asked about how to go about excusing absences of RNP members.
- Christina Duran suggested RNP needs a resource library for RNP members focusing on neighborhood programs, such as books by the speakers at the conference.
- Brenda reported on last month's Mayor's Night Out, who attended last month from the RNP, and where next month's MNO will be as well as her desire to put RNP on the agenda for RNP. Taffi asked for next year's schedule. Brenda will get it to the RNP next month.
- Paul wants to know what all the awards are that the city gives

#### **11. Next Meeting: December 3, 2007 –**

POT LUCK, everyone will bring a dish and the neighborhoods division will provide paper goods and beverages.

#### **12. Adjournment – 8:02 pm.**